

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 KINGST 06218 082033Z  
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01  
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15  
ICA-11 AID-05 OMB-01 /087 W  
-----003208 091126Z /10

R 081944Z AUG 78  
FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2738  
INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN  
AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN  
AMEMBASSY NASSAU  
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINGSTON 6218

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINT, JM  
SUBJECT: BY-ELECTION RESULTS

REF: KINGSTON 5735

1. PEOPLE'S NATIONAL PARTY'S (PNP-THE GOVERNING PARTY) DUDLEY THOMPSON WON THE WEST ST. ANDREWS BY-ELECTION EASILY AUGUST 3 AS EXPECTED. THE SEAT THUS REMAINS WITH THE GOVERNMENT AND THE PARLIAMENTARY LINE-UP DOES NOT CHANGE. THE POLL WAS LOW, ABOUT 49 PERCENT OF ELIGIBLE VOTERS. THOMPSON TOOK 7,639 OF THE 8,168 VOTES CAST. ALL OF THE OTHER CANDIDATES FAILED TO GAIN ENOUGH VOTES TO RETAIN THEIR DEPOSITS. A DISTANT SECOND WAS INDEPENDENT CANDIDATE GEORGE KERR WITH 279 VOTES. AS NOTED IN REFTEL AND PREVIOUS, THE OPPOSITION JAMAICA LABOR PARTY CONTINUED ITS BOYCOTT AND DID NOT FIELD AN OFFICIAL CANDIDATE. THE POLLING WAS PEACEFUL, WITH HEAVY POLICE PROTECTION.

2. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH JAMAICA UNITED FRONT CANDIDATE CHARLES JOHNSON TOLD US PRIVATELY THAT THERE WAS WIDESPREAD  
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FRAUD, WE CONCLUDE THAT THIS WAS A RELATIVELY CLEAN BY-ELECTION. JOHNSON WAS UNDERSTANDABLE SOUR GRAPES. DESPITE ENERGETIC EFFORTS HE GOT ONLY 72 VOTES. THOMPSON DID NOT NEED TO USE SOME OF THE DUBIOUS ELECTORAL TECHNIQUES RECORDED IN PREVIOUS JAMAICAN ELECTIONS AS HE HAD NO SERIOUS OPPOSITION. THE LOW POLL IS ATTRIBUTABLE TO USUAL BY-ELECTION LACK OF ENTHUSIASM AND POSSIBLY IT

REPRESENTS SOME KIND OF ANTI-GOVERNMENT SENTIMENT. THE JLP DID, IN FACT, PUBLICLY TELLS ITS SUPPORTERS NOT TO VOTE, BUT WE ARE INFORMED FROM A VARIETY OF SOURCES THAT PRIVATELY JLP VOTERS WERE URGED TO VOTE FOR ANY OF THE NOMINAL INDEPENDENTS IN ORDER TO EMBARRASS THOMPSON.

3. IN ANY EVENT, ON HIS THIRD TRY THOMPSON FINALLY ENTERS THE LOWER HOUSE. JAMAICA RADIO ANNOUNCED THIS MORNING THAT HE WOULD RESUME HIS PORTFOLIO AS MINISTER OF NATIONAL SECURITY FROM WHICH HE HAD RESIGNED IN ORDER TO RUN IN THE BY-ELECTION. THOMPSON IS A COLORFUL, ENERGETIC, EXPERIENCED POLITICIAN KNOWN FOR HIS QUICK AND SOMETIMES EMBARRASSINGLY FRANK WIT. THERE IS A STRONG POSSIBILITY THAT HE WILL BE APPOINTED DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER BY MANLEY. HAVERKAMP

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** ELECTION RESULTS, BYELECTION  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 08 aug 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Document Number:** 1978KINGST06218  
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**Document Unique ID:** 00  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Review Markings:**  
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